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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

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11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

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Plaintiff,

v.

MIGUEL CEDENO-MARTINEZ,

Defendant.

Criminal Case No. 07CR3270-W

**UNITED STATES' RESPONSE AND
OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S
MOTIONS TO:**

- (1) **COMPEL DISCOVERY AND
PRESERVE EVIDENCE;**
(2) **SUPPRESS STATEMENTS; AND**
(3) **FILE FURTHER MOTIONS**

**ALONG WITH UNITED STATES'
MOTION FOR RECIPROCAL
DISCOVERY**

Date: February 4, 2008
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Honorable: Thomas Whelan

Plaintiff, United States of America, by and through its counsel, Karen P. Hewitt, United States Attorney, and Christina M. McCall, Assistant United States Attorney and hereby files its Response and Opposition to Defendant's Motions and its Motion for Reciprocal Discovery. This Response and Opposition is based upon the files and records of the case together with the attached statement of facts and memorandum of points and authorities.

I

STATEMENT OF FACTS**A. Defendant's Apprehension**

On November 13, 2007, Border Patrol Agent Herrera was working in an area known as Whiskey Two. Whiskey Two is about 50 yards west of the San Ysidro port of entry and is about 10 yards north of the border fence. This area is notorious for the entry of illegal immigrants and is known to be operated by a violent alien smuggling organization known as Linea Trece. Linea Trece has used tactics such as rock-throwing against Border Patrol agents in the area of Whiskey Two.

At around 3:10 a.m., Agent Barragan notified Agent Herrera that he saw several people running northbound on the Interstate 5 free southbound lanes, from Mexico. Agent Herrera drove to the area of 5775 Camiones Way in San Ysidro and saw several people run north and climb into a blue 1989 Chevrolet Astro Minivan with Baja license plates.

As the Astro van started driving away, Agent Herrera began to perform a vehicle stop. Immediately after Agent Herrera activated his vehicles' emergency lights, the Astro van pulled over to the side of the road. A group of people left the van and attempted to flee the scene, leaving the driver and a female front seat passenger inside the van. Defendant, Miguel Cedeno-Martinez, was sitting in the driver's seat. Agent Herrera instructed Defendant to put the van in park and turn off the engine. The front-seat passenger was identified as Xita Xochitl Gonzalez-de Leon. Both Defendant and Gonzalez de Leon were detained as other agents riding in Agent Herrera's vehicle pursued the people who fled the Astro van. These agents detained eight people for questioning. One person was able to escape back to Mexico. Each of these people admitted being citizens of Mexico without documents allowing them to enter the United States. Defendant and Gonzalez-de Leon claimed to have valid visas. Everyone was taken to the Imperial Beach Border Patrol station. Defendant was in possession of a hundred dollars and 200 Mexican pesos.

At the station, agents first advised defendant Jonathan Astorga-Madrigal of his Miranda rights, which Astorga acknowledged and waived. Astorga admitted that he was acting as a foot-guide for undocumented aliens. Astorga explained that he had a medical condition that needed treatment, and that he expected to get paid \$200 for his role in crossing one person into the United States.

1 Agents next advised Defendant of his Miranda rights at 10:42 a.m.. Defendant acknowledged
2 his rights and agreed to be interviewed without the presence of an attorney. This interview was captured
3 on video, except for a few brief sections where the audio portion was recorded but the video screen is
4 obscured by messages about the video camera's battery function. The interview was conducted in a
5 well-lit interview room, in the presence of two Border Patrol agents, neither displaying weapons. The
6 agents asked Defendant which language he preferred, and, at Defendant's request, the entire interview
7 was conducted in Spanish. Defendant indicated that he felt fine and was not under the influence of
8 alcohol or drugs.

9 Ceden0 admitted he is a Mexican citizen, but claimed to have a valid visa to enter the United
10 States. At first, Defendant claimed he was just sitting in the parking lot with Xita Gonzalez-De Leon
11 when a group of people asked him for a ride to San Diego. Defendant admitted that he knew all the
12 people who asked him for a ride were illegally in the United States since he is very familiar with the
13 dynamics of illegal immigration. Defendant said he did not get a chance to make financial arrangements,
14 but he was probably going to charge all the individuals about 100 dollars. Defendant eventually
15 admitted that the only purpose of his presence in the area so close to the border was to pick up two
16 undocumented aliens and provide transportation for them. Defendant then admitted that he made
17 arrangements with a person over the phone while he was sitting in the parking lot, and that he would be
18 paid 150 dollars.

19 Officers also interviewed the people who were apprehended after fleeing the Astro van. Material
20 witness Angelica Valdez-Legaria said is a Mexican citizen who traveled from Mexico City to Tijuana
21 to be illegally smuggled into the United States. Valdez said her family was to pay about 2500 dollars
22 to smuggle her and identified Astorga as her foot guide. Valdez said she followed Astorga into the
23 United States, but did not enter a vehicle because by the time she approached the vehicle, other people
24 started running back toward her. Valdez stated that she observed a male (identified through a
25 photographic lineup as Defendant, Ceden0) and a female (identified through a photographic lineup as
26 Gonzalez-de Leon) who were not part of the initial group that crossed illegally into the United States.

27 Material witness Juan Antonio Garcia-Jimenez stated that a friend made arrangements with an
28 unidentified individual to smuggle Garcia into the United States. Garcia expected to pay a smuggling

1 fee of 2,500 dollars. Garcia identified Astorga as his foot guide. Garcia claimed that, when he
 2 approached the vehicle, others in the group started running back toward him. Garcia observed the driver
 3 when the driver was taken into custody and identified the driver as Defendant, Cedeno.

4 Material witness Jose Esparza-Castaneda said that he made arrangements with an unknown man
 5 to be smuggled to San Fernando for 2,500 dollars. The unknown man introduced Esparza to the foot
 6 guide, identified by photo lineup as Astorga. Esparza followed Astorga to a blue Chevrolet Astro van
 7 that was waiting at the curb. Esparza followed Astorga into the van and identified the driver as
 8 Defendant. Esparza said that when the Border Patrol vehicle approached the van, he saw Astorga climb
 9 out of the van and run back toward Mexico.

10 On December 4, 2007, a federal grand jury for the Southern District of California returned a six-
 11 count Indictment against defendants Cedeno and Astorga, charging them with: (1) bringing in an illegal
 12 alien-- Juan Antonio Garcia-Jimenez-- for financial gain, in violation of Title 8 U.S.C. §
 13 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii); (2) transporting an alien-- Juan Antonio Garcia-Jimenez-- within the United States,
 14 in violation of Title 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii) and (v)(II); (3) bringing in an illegal alien--Jose
 15 Salvador Esparza-Castaneda-- for financial gain, in violation of Title 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii); (4)
 16 transporting an alien--Jose Salvador Esparza-Castaneda-- within the United States, in violation of Title
 17 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii) and (v)(II); (5) bringing in an illegal alien-- Angelica Valdez-Legaria-- for
 18 financial gain, in violation of Title 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii); and (2) transporting an alien--Angelica
 19 Valdez-Legaria-- within the United States, in violation of Title 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii) and (v)(II).
 20 At the arraignment on the Indictment on December 13, 2007, both defendants entered a not-guilty plea.

21 II

22 **UNITED STATES' RESPONSE AND OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTIONS**

23 **A. ORDER COMPELLING DISCOVERY IS UNNECESSARY**

24 No Order is Required; The United States is Complying With Discovery Obligations

25 _____The United States has produced 194 pages of discovery as of the filing of this response, as well
 26 as a digital video recording of the defendants' post-arrest statements and the interview with the material
 27 witnesses. The United States has complied and will continue to comply with its discovery obligations
 28 under Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), the Jenks Act (18 U.S.C. §3500), and Federal Rule of

1 Criminal Procedure 16. Because the United States has complied and will comply with its discovery
2 obligations, an order to compel discovery is unwarranted and the request for such an order should be
3 denied.

4 1. Brady Material

5 The United States will comply with its obligations to disclose exculpatory evidence under Brady
6 v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83 (1963). Under Brady and United States v. Agurs, 427 U.S. 97 (1976), the
7 government need not disclose “every bit of information that might affect the jury’s decision.” United
8 States v. Gardner, 611 F.2d 770, 774-75 (9th Cir. 1980). The standard for disclosure is materiality. Id.
9 “Evidence is material under Brady only if there is a reasonable probability that the result of the
10 proceeding would have been different had it been disclosed to the defense.” United States v.
11 Antonakas, 255 F.3d 714, 725 (9th Cir. 2001). Impeachment evidence may constitute Brady material
12 “when the reliability of the witness may be determinative of a criminal defendant’s guilt or innocence.”
13 United States v. Blanco, 392 F.3d 382, 387 (9th Cir. 2004) (internal quotation marks omitted).

14 2. 404(b) Evidence

15 _____ The United States will disclose sufficiently in advance of trial the general nature of any prior acts
16 evidence that it intends to introduce at trial pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 404(b).

17 3. Preservation of Evidence

18 _____ The United States will preserve all evidence to which the defendant is entitled to pursuant to the
19 relevant discovery rules. The United States objects to a blanket request to preserve all physical evidence.

20 4. Defendant’s Statements

21 The United States has already provided defense counsel with incident reports detailing
22 Defendant’s brief statements in primary, as well as a DVD recording of his post-arrest interview.

23 5. Tangible Objects

24 The United States has complied and will continue to comply with Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(E)
25 in allowing Defendant an opportunity, upon reasonable notice, to examine, inspect, and copy tangible
26 objects that are within its possession, custody, or control, and that is either material to the preparation
27 of Defendant’s defense, or is intended for use by the United States as evidence during its case-in-chief
28 at trial, or was obtained from or belongs to Defendant.

1 6. Expert Witnesses

2 The United States will comply with Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(G) and provide Defendant with
3 notice and a written summary of any expert testimony that the United States intends to use during its
4 case-in-chief at trial under Rules 702, 703, or 705 of the Federal Rules of Evidence.

5 7. Witness Addresses

6 The United States will provide the names of the witnesses it intends to call at trial. Similarly,
7 the government trusts that Defendant will provide the names of the witnesses he intends to call.
8 Defendant has already been provided access to the names of potential witnesses through the discovery
9 sent to her counsel. The United States strongly objects to Defendant's request for witness addresses.
10 No cases cited by Defendant, nor any rule of discovery, requires the United States to disclose witness
11 addresses. The United States does not know of any individuals who were witnesses to Defendant's
12 offenses except the law enforcement agents who apprehended her and the material witnesses. The names
13 of these individuals have already been provided to Defendant.

14 8. Jencks Act Material

15 The United States has or will comply with the disclosure requirements of the Jencks Act. For
16 purposes of the Jencks Act, a "statement" is (1) a written statement made by the witness and signed or
17 otherwise adopted or approved by him, (2) a substantially verbatim, contemporaneously recorded
18 transcription of the witness's oral statement, or (3) a statement by the witness before a grand jury. 18
19 U.S.C. § 3500(e). Notes of an interview only constitute statements discoverable under the Jencks Act
20 if the statements are adopted by the witness, as when the notes are read back to a witness to see whether
21 or not the government agent correctly understood what the witness was saying. United States v. Boshell,
22 952 F.2d 1101, 1105 (9th Cir. 1991) (citing Goldberg v. United States, 425 U.S. 94, 98 (1976)). By the
23 same token, rough notes by an agent "are not producible under the Jencks Act due to the incomplete
24 nature of the notes." United States v. Cedano-Arellano, 332 F.3d 568, 571 (9th Cir. 2004).

25 The United States is not aware of any dispatch tapes containing Jencks Act material in this case.

26 9. Informants and Cooperating Witnesses

27 At this time, the United States is not aware of any confidential informants or cooperating
28 witnesses involved in this case, other than the two women identified and held as material witnesses. The

1 government must generally disclose the identity of informants where (1) the informant is a material
 2 witness, or (2) the informant's testimony is crucial to the defense. Roviaro v. United States, 353 U.S.
 3 53, 59 (1957). These threshold requirements have been interpreted to require that, if any cooperating
 4 witnesses or informants were involved or become involved, Defendant must show that disclosure of the
 5 informer's identity would be "relevant and helpful" or that the informer was the sole percipient witness
 6 before he would even be entitled to an in-camera evidentiary hearing regarding disclosure of the
 7 informer's identity. United States v. Jaramillo-Suarez, 950 F.2d 1378, 1386-87 (9th Cir. 1991), quoting
 8 Roviaro v. United States, 353 U.S. 53, 60 (1957). Any bias issues will be handled pursuant to Brady.

9 10. Scientific Requests

10 a. Request for A-files

11 The United States will provide access to the material witnesses' alien files.

12 b. Request to view co-defendant's statement

13 The government will provide a recording of the co-defendant's post-arrest statement..

14 c. Information regarding the released aliens

15 The prosecutor will attempt to locate information relating to other aliens apprehended
 16 with the defendants in this case and will turn that information over to defense counsel.

17 11. Residual Request

18 As stated above, the United States will comply with its discovery obligations in a timely manner.

19 **B. THE POST-ARREST STATEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE SUPPRESSED**

20 _____Defendant moves to suppress all statements made to government officials, on the basis of an
 21 alleged Miranda violation. Defendant argues that there are three reasons why his post-arrest statement
 22 should be suppressed: (1) the Miranda rights were confusing because they were given after the
 23 administrative rights; (2) agents told Defendant that he could contact the Mexican consulate after his
 24 interview; and (3) the explanation of the right to an attorney was unclear.

25 **1. Defendant's Motion Should be Denied Without a Hearing**

26 _____The Court should deny the motion to suppress without a hearing. Under Ninth Circuit precedent
 27 and Southern District Local Criminal Rule 47.1(g)(1), a defendant is entitled to an evidentiary hearing
 28 on a motion to suppress only when the defendant puts forth, in a declaration, sufficient facts to require

1 a factual finding. United States v. Batiste, 868 F.2d 1089, 1098 (9th Cir. 1989) (“defendant, in his
2 motion to suppress, failed to dispute any material fact in the government’s proffer, . . . the district court
3 was not required to hold an evidentiary hearing.”). “A hearing will not be held on a defendant’s pretrial
4 motion to suppress merely because a defendant wants one. Rather, the defendant must demonstrate that
5 a ‘significant disputed factual issue exists such that a hearing is required.’” United States v. Howell, 231
6 F.3d 615, 621(9th Cir. 2000) (citations omitted).

7 Here, Defendant has failed to support his allegations with a declaration, in clear opposition to
8 Local Rule 47.1(g). Defendant also fails to provide any factual support that a violation of Miranda
9 occurred, in the form of a transcript, a translation of the videotape of Defendant’s post-arrest interview,
10 a declaration of a percipient witness, or the forms that Defendant signed, acknowledging his
11 constitutional rights. This Court should deny Defendant’s motion to suppress the statements he made
12 to officials on the day of his arrest.

13 **2. The Miranda Warnings Effectively Conveyed Defendant’s Rights**

14 Defendant was informed of the Miranda rights in his native language. It is difficult to see what
15 is wrong with the prophylactic protections phrased almost identically to those in the Miranda case itself.
16 This warning is not defective. Defendant signed the “waiver of rights” form, and initialed twice,
17 indicating that he understood the rights that were read to him, before speaking about the offense.
18 (Exhibit 1.)

19 **3. Defendant Knowingly, Voluntarily and Intelligently Waived His Rights**

20 The case agent read the Miranda warnings to Defendant. Defendant signed the waiver form and
21 wrote his initials next to each of the enumerated rights. The environment was free of physical
22 intimidation; Defendant was not handcuffed during the interview, which took place in a well-lit room
23 with two unarmed Spanish-speaking agents present and two unlocked doors. Defendant’s demeanor on
24 the videotape is relaxed, and his responses to questions were appropriate and coherent. All the evidence
25 indicates that Defendant knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently waived his rights. His statements
26 should be admitted.

UNITED STATES' MOTION FOR RECIPROCAL DISCOVERY

Defendant has invoked Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a) and the United States has voluntarily complied with the requirements of Rule 16(a). Therefore, provision 16(b) of that rule, requiring reciprocal discovery, is applicable. The United States hereby requests Defendant to permit the United States to inspect, copy, and photograph any and all books, papers, documents, photographs, tangible objects, or make copies of portions thereof, which are within the possession, custody or control of Defendant and which he intends to introduce as evidence in her case-in-chief at trial.

The United States further requests that it be permitted to inspect and copy or photograph any results or reports of physical or mental examinations and of scientific tests or experiments made in connection with this case, which are in the possession or control of Defendant, which he intends to introduce as evidence-in-chief at the trial or which were prepared by a witness whom Defendant intends to call as a witness. The United States also requests that the court make such orders as it deems necessary under Rule 16(d)(1) and (2) to insure that the United States receives the discovery to which it is entitled.

Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 26.2 requires the production of prior statements of all witnesses, except Defendant. The time frame established by the rule requires the statement to be provided after the witness has testified, as in the Jencks Act. The United States hereby requests that Defendant be ordered to supply all prior statements of defense witnesses by a reasonable date before trial to be set by the court. This order should include any form these statements are memorialized in, including but not limited to, tape recordings, handwritten or typed notes and/or reports.

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V

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the United States respectfully requests that Defendant's motions, except where not opposed, be denied and the United States' motion for reciprocal discovery be granted.

DATED: January 28, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,

KAREN P. HEWITT
United States Attorney

/s/ Christina M. McCall

CHRISTINA M. McCALL
Assistant U.S. Attorney

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

MIGUEL CEDENO-MARTINEZ,

Defendant.

Case No. 07CR3270-W

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that:

I, CHRISTINA M. McCALL, am a citizen of the United States and am at least eighteen years of age. My business address is 880 Front Street, Room 6293, San Diego, California 92101.

I am not a party to the above-entitled action. I have caused service of RESPONSE AND OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY AND SUPPRESS STATEMENTS on the following parties by electronically filing the foregoing with the Clerk of the District Court using its ECF System, which electronically notifies them.

Robert Rexrode, Esq.
Tamara DeHaan, Esq.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on January 28, 2008.

/s/ Christina M. McCall

CHRISTINA M. McCALL